

Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Aug 18, 2021

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

When: Aug 18, 2021 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting: https://town-arlington-ma
us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtc-GppzgtH9wvO8ywxcVLb73FGtlyLOb2

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download

Attendees: Co-Chair Pusey, Co-Chair Jolin, Commissioners Soneja, Bauer, Brown, Haynes, Grossman, Carey, Rogers, Carney

Absent: Commissioners Minton, Horowitz

DEI Office: Jillian Harvey, Christina Coleman

APD: Captain Sean Kiernan

Community Members: Rebecca Gruber

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by Co-chair Jolin

Land acknowledgement by Co-chair Jolin

Agenda

- 1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement (5 min)
- 2. Review of Minutes (5 min)
 - a. Commissioner Grossman motioned to accept July minutes Commissioner Soneja seconded Passed with abstention from Co-Chair Jolin
- 3. Review of July Community Input (1 min)
 - a. None
- 4. Co-chair Report (10 min)
 - a. Friends of the Robbins Library Event 3/22
 - i. Co-Chair_Jolin to follow up with Gwen Wong to proceed with interview format
 - b. Meeting with Co-Chairs of Town Commissions
 - Our table at the Farmer's Market will be shared with the Rainbow Commission
 - ii. Commissioner volunteers needed
 - 1. Commissioner Carney to send out signup genius
 - c. Meeting with Chief of Police:
 - i. ABLE training 2 officers to attend training, will train officers following program completion
 - ii. Matthew Shepard training to be held in Nov for the full department
 - iii. De-Escalation Training in ME 2 officers attended from APD
 - iv. Intersection of Guns and Hate event will be held on Sept 23rd at 7pm
 - d. Meeting with Town Manager ARPA funds
 - i. Covid relief fund for the Town of Arlington
 - ii. Video explanation of funds and how to allocate on the town website
 - iii. Residents may add comments to google form (on website) until 9/9
 - iv. Town forum will be held 9/9
 - v. Select Board review will be on 9/13
 - vi. Select Board endorsement will be on 9/27
- 5. DEI Division updates (5 min)
 - a. ADA Training
 - i. Jillian working to apply for ADA grant
 - ii. Grant last year focused on updating restrooms in the most frequented buildings in town
 - iii. This year considering applying for accessible technology improvements to conference rooms
 - b. Community Conversations
 - i. Events wrapped up last week
 - ii. New meeting format allowed for more public participation
 - iii. DEI town webpage will be updated to include questions from community conversations
 - c. Potential grant opportunity
 - i. St John's Episcopal grant for programming around AAPI Awareness
 - ii. AHRC decided not to participated based on grant requirements/guidelines for participation
- 6. Working Group Q&A (10 min)
 - a. Schools and Education
 - i. Minutes provided prior to meeting
 - b. Outreach/Events
 - i. First joint meeting focused on 9/23 event
 - ii. Brochure translated into 6 languages
 - c. Communications

- i. Website training complete
- d. Housing
 - Did not meet
- e. IPD
 - i. Opportunity to join professional development program about IPD on 8/24 (8-11am) through the schools.
- 7. MAHRC Commissioner Bauer (3 min)
 - a. No meeting in July/August
 - b. Commissioner Bauer to step down replacement needed
 - c. Meeting held on 2nd Friday of the month at 9:30 AM
- 8. Chief's Advisory Council Commissioner Grossman (1 min)
 - a. No meeting
- 9. Diversifying Local Boards and Commissions Commissioner Grossman (3 min)
 - a. No meeting this was a one-time event
- 10. Civilian Review Board Exploratory Committee Commissioner Rogers (3 min)
 - a. Non-profit presentation sent with meeting pre-reads
 - b. Status report to be discussed later in the month
 - c. Currently there are 3 standard models for consideration recommendation will most likely be a hybrid
 - d. From the period 2016 to April 30, 2021 there have been 18 citizen complaints total.
- 11. Community Input (15 min)
 - a. none
- 12. Incidents (1 min)
 - New incident reported verbal threats and homophobic slurs between past coworkers
 - i. Police have contacted the suspect with little cooperation
- 13. Arlington Housing Plan; Speaker: Erin Moriarty, Asst. Director for Planning and Community Development (10 min)
 - a. Town Housing Plan is reviewed every 5 years
 - b. Currently gathering community input
 - i. Meeting in a Box: 3 questions and meeting materials provided to host
 - ii. Topics include affordability, building location preferences, and issues effective various populations in town
 - iii. Community members encouraged to participate and host these meetings responses collected by the committee through Sept 14th
 - iv. Community forum will be held on Sept 14th at 630 pm
 - c. Meeting in a Box graphic to be shared with AHRC to help promote participation
 - d. Recommendation made to reach out to precinct leaders for interest
- 14. September Retreat (10 min)
 - a. Co-Chair Pusey to send out doodle poll
 - b. Possible dates -9/12 or 9/26
 - c. Agenda topics include police presence at meetings, town survey findings, events in the next fiscal year
- 15. Announcements (5 min)
 - a. Coffee Chats
 - i. July Grossman/Minton
 - 1. Public not in attendance
 - ii. August Bauer/Carney
 - 1. Will take place at the farmers' market event in Sept
 - iii. Sept Pusey/Jolin
 - b. Incident Handling
 - i. Sept Bauer

16. Ad hoc topic

- a. Statements for Haiti and Afghanistan proposed by Co-Chair Pusey
- b. AHRC in favor of writing and expediting both statements
 - i. Afghanistan discuss human rights violations and welcoming of refugees: Co-Chair Pusey and Commissioner Soneja to draft
 - ii. Haiti AHRC to raise awareness of humanitarian efforts close to home Commissioners Brown and Carney to draft
- c. Commissioner Haynes motioned to write both statements and expedite approval, Commissioner Brown seconded *Passed with abstention* from Commissioner Soneja

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown; seconded by Commissioner Carney; passed unanimously.

Next meeting: September 22, 2021, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, <u>jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us</u>. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.